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June 14, 2016

Congressman Joe Barton
6th District of Texas
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: In favor of HR 2646

Dear Congressman Barton:

I am writing to express the enthusiastic support of Mental Health America of Greater Dallas for HR 2646 by Congressman Tim Murphy. Please vote for the strongest version possible of HR 2646.

One in seventeen Americans has a serious and persistent mental illness—schizophrenia, major depression, or bipolar disorder. In Texas, the two largest mental health facilities are the Harris County Jail and the Dallas County Jail, a situation that is unfortunately replicated nationwide.

Congressman Murphy has used his long experience as mental health professionals to craft this much-needed legislation.

HR 2646:

- Refocuses the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration and requires greater accountability for that agency's use of taxpayer funds.
- Revises overly restrictive privacy rules that tragically keep information from the families of people with mental illness, often with disastrous consequences.
- Promotes proven, evidence-based treatment.
- Provides incentives to states to provide earlier, less costly community-based treatment as an alternative to more expensive institutional care.

The reforms in HR 2646 will spur development of more common-sense and effective solutions to our country's broken mental health system.

Sincerely,

Janie Metzinger
Public Policy Director